

Education Doctorates in Kentucky

In the fall of 2005, several of Kentucky's comprehensive universities indicated their interest in offering doctoral degrees in education (the Ed.D.) to serve the needs of their region and the Commonwealth. The Council staff convened a series of discussions on the issues surrounding such offerings to ensure that this significant shift in graduate education in the state was collaborative and met Kentucky's needs for the leadership development of both K-12 and Kentucky Community and Technical College System administrators.

In March 2006, the Council staff, chief academic officers, education deans, chairs of education leadership programs, and other interested parties met to address how these proposed programs could both serve the students interested in such programs and provide a model of collaboration and cooperation that would harness Kentucky's resources and increase the quality of educational leadership in the state. This conversation resulted in the following outcomes:

- The University of Kentucky, the University of Louisville, and all the comprehensive universities agreed to explore the collaborative development of joint doctoral degree programs in education.
- The Council staff will investigate the possibility of involving the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and other national and regional organizations in the development of these progressive models.
- The Council staff distributed a survey to all involved institutions soliciting the criteria for an exemplary program. The results of this survey will guide the development of the programs.

All of the institutions and the Council staff are working together to develop programs that allow each institution to serve their students and meet the needs of the entire Commonwealth.